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10-18-1960

### 1960-10-18, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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## Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

## Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

## Keywords

1960-10-18

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1960-10-18

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Capt. Bette J Harris  
7272 USAF Hospital  
APO 231, 4 LIFE.  
ny, ny



Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Harris  
1717 Highland Avenue  
Knoxville 16  
Tennessee

18 October 60

5<sup>30</sup> pm

Dear Mom and Darryl,

I'm at the Tripoli Beauty Salon. I came early this week because I didn't want a stringy head to greet Ray on arrival. Of course, I still haven't any idea when he will come, because I have had no word from him since he got back to S. J. He has probably been busy as a bee trying to get his orders and papers ready for our big venture.

I too have been too busy to do much writing because I have discovered that there were many legal documents necessary to comply with Libyan & Italian Law. So I have spent most of today getting all the information together. I have a manila folder full of documents. Don't worry about the birth certificate. I have gotten a certification that I was born on Jan. 28, and they say that will suffice. I also get one for Ray, so it doesn't matter if he doesn't have access to his birth certificate either.

Everyone has been most kind to me. I have had a lot



of set-backs<sup>2</sup>; but they have worked themselves out. The only remaining problem is for us to pass our bars & wait. I may even be able to circumvent part of that too. I have a friend who is a widow of an air force pilot. She stayed on in Libya after her husband died here. She is very closely associated with many Libyans because she speaks their language. She is trying to help us get a waiver of the 3 Sundays + 4 days wait. I have an appointment to go with her to meet the Mayor of Tripoli to ask him if he can set aside any of the waiting period. If he can, we will be able to be married here. If he will not, we may still try to go to Athens, Greece. Naturally, Ray knows nothing of this; so it must await his decision.

There are two aircraft coming in here tonight about midnight from Charleston. - one, a passenger flight, one, cargo; so maybe, just 'maybe, Ray' will be on one of them. I hope so.

I got your letter about your parents' turn for the worse. I hope she pulls through if she would not be more miserable by so doing.



I got a <sup>3</sup>very happy letter  
from Polly telling all about  
her new car + new apartment  
with Barbara. I'm so glad she  
is happier. It sounds as if  
they are really having a ball!  
They hope #3, Emile, will be  
joining them soon - now that  
her mother is becoming  
more resigned to her father's  
death.

Jane and one of my new  
friends, A 1/2 ~~English~~ <sup>English</sup> boy, Kay,  
who, by the way, will replace me,  
are downtown with me. They are  
out shopping while I get beautiful.  
It's Peggy's (I keep wanting to call  
her Polly) first trip of course -  
but she hasn't acted too shocked  
at the sites - probably because  
she has been stationed in Japan  
and the Philippines and has seen  
a similar type of abject poverty  
~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> a nation, before.

Mom, in case you haven't  
received the letter. I did tell  
you Mrs. Salisbury did. Love  
your tablecloth. Also, I did get  
the packages + everything's OK.



4-

I'm glad you got M. Ann  
a doll buggy and I hope  
to mail her a birthday gift  
for 10 December also.

Let me know when Sister's  
boy arrives - it should be in  
about 5 Nov. - Give or take a  
week or so.

I haven't mailed yours  
yet - so let me know if you  
two plan to be at home or  
in ~~Illinois~~ <sup>New York</sup> for Christmas. I wish  
I knew where I will be at Christmas -  
with Ray and you all, I hope, but  
there's no way to know yet.

We won't know what colors to  
use in our bedroom yet, Mom, but  
you know I'd love the white bed -  
but how much will the other one  
cost? Let me pay for it. I have  
bought a few sheets - mostly pastels -  
so if you want to, you can look  
for white with pretty print bands  
on the top sheet & pillow cases  
like you gave me to match my  
one decent pink & white blanket,  
but save your money, gas, for  
we can do on what we have  
for a while. He won't be pluck,



but we won't be destitute  
ever. Ray and I won't ever  
fuss about money or the  
buyable things of life, because  
what we have I think is  
worth ever so much more -  
we've been through enough to  
make us appreciate it  
all the more. I'm so very  
lucky to have found him.  
Mom, after what I almost did  
a couple of times. I guess the  
Good Lord was looking out  
after me, in spite of my peck.  
Well, its time for love  
coming -

Red rule  
19 Oct.

Still no Ray; Mom, call  
him and if he's still there,  
tell him to write <sup>or telegraph</sup> ~~to me~~ for  
I need a definite date - I'm  
having trouble planning & trying  
to get my orders changed & no  
definite date of marriage in  
site. I know he's not due in  
until tomorrow, but I'm worried.  
I'm tired to write; so I'll write tomorrow  
Love M. Little